



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0523**

January 27, 2022

Vice Admiral Carl P. Chebi, USN  
Commander, Naval Air Systems Command  
47123 Buse Road  
Building 2272, Suite 540  
Patuxent River, Maryland 20670

Dear Vice Admiral Chebi:

I have recently learned that the Navy will be eliminating a flag officer billet. While I understand that tough decisions will need to be made, the flag officer billet based at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) is a key element of our national security that helps best position the Navy for future success. That is why I support ensuring that the flag officer billet remains at NAWCWD China Lake.

As you know, NAWCWD has made incredible contributions to our country. Congress has recognized the importance of this organization by investing \$3.3 billion to rebuild the base after a devastating earthquake in 2019 damaged critical infrastructure. Because of this investment, NAWCWD will soon be able to leverage new, world-class facilities to test and develop technology used to defend our nation. Together, with the 1.1 million acres of land range at China Lake and 36,000 miles of sea range and airspace at Point Mugu, which includes San Nicolas Island, NAWCWD's greatest contributions to our nation remain ahead of us.

From the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to the Naval Air Forces and the Pacific Fleet Commands, California and the Pacific region have a strong Navy presence, and I have no doubt that a flag officer billet at NAWCWD is best positioned to support this important endeavor and better assist those who are protecting our shores from emerging threats like China. By ensuring the flag officer billet remains at NAWCWD, our country is better prepared to guard against threats in operational domains like sea, land, and space, forming a bedrock of our national defense enterprise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin McCarthy".

KEVIN McCARTHY  
House Republican Leader